

a user station at each of a plurality of customer households, the user station including;
means for said customer household preselection of desired transmitted music selections for recording;

means for said system preselection of desired transmitted music selections for recording;

a receiver and associated high capacity storage medium for recording preselected music selections in digital form;

an audio output for outputting audio signals from the storage medium to a playback device so that the customer household may playback those recorded music selections it wishes to enjoy;

a central controller system having a database for storing therein an address corresponding to each customer household;

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a communications link between each customer household and the central controller system to verify to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill customer households for music selections that are made available for playback.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) A method of distributing music to customer households comprising the steps of:

[blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to customer households by direct broadcast satellite (DBS) at data transmission rates faster than real time;

providing each customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;

permitting said each customer household to preselect and record desired music selections on a high capacity storage medium;

permitting said each customer household to playback recorded music selections;

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communicating music playback information from said each customer household to a central controller system; and

billing said customer households for the recorded music selections that are made available for playback.

Please add new claims 3-37 as follows:

--3. The system of Claim 1 for distributing music to customer households providing means for accessing a very large content library, said content library comprising said preselected music selections.

4. The system of Claim 3 for distributing music to customer households comprising:

means for said customer household constructing a play list of said very large content library; and,

means for playing said play list in any sequence at any time.

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5. The system of Claim 4 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said means for said customer household constructing said play list comprises:

means for ordering said sequence including continuous playback, shuffle, sort-by-artist, sort-by-title or sort-by-category.

6. The system of Claim 5 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said high capacity storage medium associated with said receiver has a portion of said high capacity storage medium dedicated to said recording preselected music selections.

7. The system of Claim 6 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said high capacity storage medium associated with said receiver is a hard drive.

8. The system of Claim 7 wherein said means for said customer household preselection of desired transmitted music selections for recording comprises:

a menu driven, graphical user interface with simplified controls providing music selection by artist, title and category.

9. The method of Claim 2 for distributing music to customer households wherein said customer household recording step comprises:

creating a very large content library, said content library comprising said preselected music selections.

10. The method of Claim 2 for distributing music to customer households wherein said customer household playback step comprises:

said playback of recorded music selections according to a customer household created play list, said play list being arranged to play said recorded music selections in any sequence at any time.

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11. The method of Claim 10 for distributing music to customer households wherein creation steps for said customer household created play list comprise:

providing a menu driven, graphical user interface with simplified controls for user selection of said music.

12. The system for distributing music of Claim 1 wherein said customer household preselection means comprises:

means for selecting customer preferred music styles by a customer of said customer household.

13. The system of Claim 12 wherein said means for selecting customer preferred music styles by a customer of said customer household comprises:

a graphical user interface with a music style preferences list .

14. The system of Claim 13 wherein said means for selecting customer preferred music styles by a customer of said customer household comprises:

a graphical user interface with music style, subgroup and artist preferences lists for a more detailed selection by said customer .

15. The system for distributing music of Claim 1 wherein said high capacity storage medium is connected to a means for permanent storage.

16. The system for distributing music of Claim 8 wherein a central controller system comprises:

a general population cluster preference database;
a customer catalog generator module;
an individual customer preference information storage module; and,
a payload scheduler.

17. The system for distributing music of Claim 16 wherein said individual customer preference information storage module comprises:

means for obtaining said customer preferred music styles of each customer.

18. The system for distributing music of Claim 17 wherein said general population cluster preference database comprises:

means for obtaining said customer preferred music styles of a plurality of customer households.

19. The system for distributing music of Claim 18 wherein said customer catalog generator module comprises:

means for generating an individual customer catalog based on an analysis of said customer preferred music styles of a plurality of customer households from said general population cluster preference database and said customer preferred music styles from said individual customer preference information storage module.

20. The system for distributing music of Claim 19 wherein a plurality of ID headers on all of the plurality of music selections are read and only those that are indicated by said individual customer catalog as being desirable to the customer are selected for recording.

21. The system for distributing music of Claim 1 wherein said receiver comprises a download module for decoding pricing information and said transmitted music selections.

22. The system of Claim 7 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said portion of said hard drive dedicated to said recording preselected music selections is a minimum of 8 gigabytes.

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23. The method of Claim 2 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said direct broadcast satellite data transmission is accomplished with a 240 watt transponder thereby increasing effective transponder capacity.

24. The method of Claim 2 for providing information wherein said providing step is done by a satellite link.

25. The method of Claim 2 for providing information wherein said providing step is done by a central controller system.

26. The method of Claim 2 wherein a customer of said customer household selects customer preferred music styles by using a graphical user interface having a musical style preferences list.

27. The method of Claim 26 wherein said customer of said customer household may select additional customer preferences of music subgroup and artist by using said graphical user interface having additionally a subgroup preferences list and an artist preferences list.

28. The method of Claim 2 further comprising:
creating a general population cluster preference database containing preference information of a general population and some sub-set thereof;
storing individual customer preference information;
creating an individual customer catalog based on an analysis of said general population cluster preference database and said individual customer preference information;
utilizing said individual customer catalog to select for recording only those music selections indicated by said individual customer catalog as being desirable to the customer.

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29. In a system for distributing music to customer households, said system comprising:
means for said system preselection of desired transmitted music selections for recording.

30. The system preselection means of Claim 29 wherein said preselection is based on said system profiling of the customer.

31. The system preselection means of Claim 30 wherein said system profiling of the customer comprises:
means for creating at least 10 standard customer profiles.

32. The system preselection means of Claim 31 wherein said means for creating at least 10 standard customer profiles comprises:
creation of said standard customer profiles by a system operator.

33. The system preselection means of Claim 32 wherein said creation of said standard customer profiles by a system operator comprises:
said system operator creating said standard customer profiles based on a selection of customer music styles by a customer of said customer household.

34. In a method of distributing music to customer households, said method comprising:

preselecting music based on a profile of said each customer household and recording said preselected music on a high capacity storage medium.

35. The method of Claim 34 for preselecting music comprising: creating at least 10 standard customer profiles.

36. The method of Claim 35 for preselecting music wherein: a system operator creates said standard customer profiles

37. The method of Claim 36 for preselecting music wherein: said system operator bases said standard customer profiles on a selection of customer music styles by a customer of a customer household.--

REMARKS

Applicants have filed these preliminary amendments and REMARKS in support of them. Consideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

In Claim 1 the existing means plus function language was clarified for subsequent dependent claims. A limitation was added to claim the system capability of preselecting music for recording.

Claim 2 was amended adding the term "said" to clarify that the term "customer households" has antecedent basis.

Claims 3-37 were added to claim features concerning storing profiled and customer-ordered music as well as storage medium type and the ability of customers to create their own play lists.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above preliminary amendments are fully supported in the specification and consequently should be entered.